



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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John Gorka Returns to the Cuyahoga Valley

Brecksville, Ohio - On Saturday, April 28, 2007, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association (CVNPA) welcome singer/songwriter John Gorka to the stage at 8 p.m. at Happy Days Visitor Center as part of the Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series. The Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series celebrates the cultural legacy of the Cuyahoga Valley. Admission: \$15 adults, \$10 CVNPA members, and \$5 children 3 - 12. Doors open at 7 p.m. General seating. Advance ticket sales are available by calling (330) 657- 2909.

Following the release of John Gorka's eighth album, *The Company You Keep*, Steven Stone of *Vintage Guitar Magazine* referred to John as "the energizer bunny of singer/songwriters. He just keeps going and going. Each new release not only equals the quality of his last, but exceeds it." He went on to say "While some songwriters create great melodies, Gorka's forte is his lyrics. His songs can be evocatively beautiful." Gorka has had two additional releases since then with critics and audience alike continuing to praise his rich multi- faceted songs full of depth, beauty and emotion.

Gorka began at one of the oldest and most venerable music institutions in eastern Pennsylvania, Godfrey Daniels. A small neighborhood coffeehouse and listening room, it has long been a hangout for music lovers and aspiring musicians, and in the late 1970s, one of these was a young Moravian College student named John Gorka. Though his academic course work lay in Philosophy and History, music began to offer paramount enticements. Soon he found himself living in the club's basement and acting as resident M.C. and soundman, encountering legendary folk troubadours like Canadian singer/songwriter Stan Rogers, Eric Andersen, Tom Paxton and Claudia Schmidt. Their brand of folk- inspired acoustic music inspired him, and before long he was performing his own songs - mostly as an opener for visiting acts. Though a long way from Godfrey Daniels, John Gorka is still honored to be a part of the folk tradition - energetic acoustic music that is not a trend, not a fad, but an expression of everyday life.

To obtain a digital image of John Gorka, contact Karen Kopchak at karen_kopchak@nps.gov or (440) 546- 5994.

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Create your own subscription series and enjoy three great concerts for one low price. No cash refunds, but tickets may be exchanged until ten days before the concert. \$40 adults, \$25 CVNPA members, \$15 children 3 - 12. For more information about the subscriber series, call (330) 657- 2909.

Upcoming Concerts:

Saturday, May 5: Rani Arbo and *daisy mayhem* (Stringband)

Friday, May 18: *Back of the Moon* (Traditional Scottish)

Saturday, May 26: Peggy Seeger and John McCutcheon (Traditional Folk/Singer/Songwriter)*

*These concerts have special pricing and are not available as part of a subscription package.

Happy Days Visitor Center is located at 500 West Streetsboro in Peninsula, 1 mile west of State Route 8, is a restored Civilian Conservation Corps structure that provides a rustic ambiance for folk and traditional concerts, theater, lectures, and ranger- led programs.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information visit www.nps.gov/cuva or www.dayinthevalley.com or call (216)524- 1497 or (800)445- 9667.

CVNPA, in partnership with the National Park Service and CVNP, provides innovative education programs and fosters community awareness, support, and enjoyment of the park. For more information about CVNPA and its membership program, visit www.cvnpa.org or call (330) 657- 2909.

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